(c) India is completely self-sufficient for launching remote sensing satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and 2-tonne class communication satellites using Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Setting up of an Earth Station

1254. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are holding discussions for setting up an Earth Station in India for receiving data from US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages that India would benefit from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) is a US system satellites to monitor global environmental conditions and collect and disseminate data related to weather, atmosphere, ocean, land and near space environment. A US proposal for setting up an earth station in India for receiving data from NPOESS has been received by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

(c) On successful implementation of the project, India would get real time access to scientific data of importance to earth sciences, environment and meteorology.

Launching of next PSLV

1255. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting ready for next PSLV launch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the preparation for the launch of Chandrayaan were going on well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. ISRO is planning to launch the next PSLV by the first quarter of 2006.

(b) The next flight of PSLV, PSLV-C7 will carry two payloads, *viz.*, Cartosat-2 satellite weighing about 650 kg. and the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) weighing about 600 kg. into a polar sun-synchronous orbit of 620 km.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Chandrayaan-I Spacecraft Configuration Design has been completed and Preliminary Design Reviews (PDR) have started. Deep Space Network (DSN) station location has been finalized and in PDR completed. Indian Science Instruments' Design and Development work has been initiated. MoU with European Space Agency (ESA) has been concluded for four piggyback payloads. These activities are progressing as per project schedule.

Divergence between poverty estimates

1256. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a 40 per cent divergence between the poverty estimates of the National Accounts Statistics and those of the National Sample Survey Organisations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the 55th NSS round has changed its methodology giving rise to problems of comparability with earlier rounds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Poverty estimates are derived by the Planning Commission using the household consumer expenditure data collected by the National Sample Survey Organisation quinquennially. Poverty estimates are not prepared by using the National Accounts Statistics. Thus, the question of divergence in poverty estimation does not arise.

(b) Yes, there has been some changes in the methodology in the NSS 55th round.